

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 GSA-01 IO-11 /124 W

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R 131200Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 05

USUN NEW YORK 288

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN REACTION TO US SIGNATURE OF FIFTH INTERNATIONAL
TIN AGREEMENT

1. IN ANNUAL SPEECH BEFORE THE BOLIVIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
ON MARCH 9, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED US INTENTION TO SIGN THE INTER-
NATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT. LA PAZ PRESS HEADLINED TIN ASPECT OF
SPEECH NEXT DAY AND ALSO ON MARCH 12 FRONT-PAGED ANNOUNCEMENT OF
US SIGNATURE.

2. BOTH PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE.
NEWSPAPER "PRESENCIA" CARRIED ARTICLE MARCH 11 CHARACTERIZING
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OPINIONS OF PROMINENT GOB OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE MINERS AS CON-

SIDERING US ACTION POSITIVE AND BENEFICIAL. GENERAL ZELAYA, MINISTER OF MINES, STATED THAT AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH REFLECTED USG UNDERSTANDING OF MINING SITUATION IN BOLIVIA, POINTING OUT THAT US, AS WORLD'S LARGEST TIN CONSUMER, BRINGS TOTAL PARTICIPATION TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, INCREASING POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING FAIR AGREEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL TIN COMMERCE. GENERAL VIA SOLIZ, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMIBOL, BOLIVIA'S STATE-OWNED MINING CORPORATION, SAID THAT US ENTRY INTO ITC FAVORS NOT ONLY THE BOLIVIAN TIN MINING INDUSTRY, BUT AS WELL THE WORLD'S. GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE MEDIUM MINERS ASSOCIATION, DR ESPANA, AGREED THAT USA PARTICIPATION IS POSITIVE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF THE US MADE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO BUFFER STOCK AS NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE HAVE DONE. ALTHOUGH SOME CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED REGARDING ADDING STRENGTH TO CONSUMERS BLOCK IN ITC, ALL SOURCES AGREED THAT US AID IS TO COOPERATE WITH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FAIR AND RELATIVELY STABLE PRICE FOR TIN.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE VERY FAVORABLE REACTION TO US ENTRY, GOB IS REMAINING CLOSED-MOUTHED ABOUT ITS OWN INTENTIONS ON TIN AGREEMENT. IN MEETING WITH NATIONAL MINING COUNCIL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, GOB OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY ARE STILL STUDYING MAJOR ISSUES, INCLUDING ITC VOTING SYSTEM, NAMING OF BUFFER STOCK MANAGER, AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY CONSUMERS. WE EXPECT THAT AS A NEGOTIATING TACTIC GOB MAY DELAY BUT IN THE END WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SIGN TIN AGREEMENT.
STEDMAN

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